

**NYAYIKA Gujarat**

**IDEAL Foundation for Social and  
Economic Development**

***Annual Report  
April 2017- March 2018***

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## A. Highlights of the Year 2017-18

The year was an eventful one for IDEAL Foundation and its Nyayika Unit with the addition of 2 new Nyayika Centres – Savarkundla and North Gujarat.

Overall, the centres dealt with a total of **1573** cases and claims over the last year.

Outreach activities continued with the same rigour through village visits including legal camps and campaigns. A total of **1,157 village visits** were conducted by the Nyayika teams from April 2017 to March 2018. These village visits and campaigns have helped spread awareness about the rights and entitlements. Generating awareness through use of printed material in vernacular language, door visits, village level meetings, meetings with stakeholder groups and other activities have been instrumental in making people aware about their rights and entitlements. Such outreach activities turn out to be seeds of empowerment and important mechanisms for altering the perception of people about the formal justice dispensation system. These activities are instrumental in promoting rule of law and fostering access to justice.

25 students from various law colleges also participated in the village visits and awareness camps organised by Nyayika.

Continuing its networking and liaising efforts, Nyayika collaborated with various local NGOs, CBOs and Government Organizations at various locations including – **“Saath Charitable Trust”**, in Ahmedabad, **MahilaSamakhya** in Amreli and Mandvi, **District Legal Services Authority** in Mandvi, **NaariAdalats**, **Gender Resource Centre** and **108 Abhayam helpline**, **local Panchayats** in various locations, **Women and Child Welfare and Labour Department** in North Gujarat and **Zonal Officer** in Vastral, Ahmedabad. These collaborations were made to ensure case referrals from various sources and smoothen the process of claiming entitlements from various Government agencies. The North Gujarat Centre has also been appointed as the member of Child Welfare Committee and will be involved in a survey on the status of child education in North Gujarat with these departments.

Liaisoning has also been done with the Community Based Organisations (CBOs) of Janvikas and Himmat to provide legal services.

Expanding its operations further, Nyayika Amreli set up a new office at Savarkundla. A team of four people have been appointed at the Savarkundla office including two lawyers and two part-time law students. Similarly, the Modasa Centre expanded its work to North Gujarat by setting up a new centre. This centre focuses to cover issues related to minorities, tribal groups, women, children and other vulnerable communities of Meghraj, Himmatnagar, Bhiloda, Aravalli and other areas of North Gujarat.

A series of training and capacity building programmes were organized in the last year covering a vast group of stakeholders including volunteers, paralegals, teams of other NGOs/ CBOs and Government representatives. These trainings covered topics like women rights, land rights, Dalit rights, orientation on new Government Resolutions, citizenship rights and labour rights.

A couple of RTI applications were filed in order to procure relevant information on topics like – Provisions of entitlements for the primitive tribes in the forest belt of Mandvi, status of FIRs in certain cases and Vada Regularization in North Gujarat.

A district level workshop was organized by the Bharuch Centre on the occasion of the International Women’s Day presenting the findings of a study of the State and Central Government Scheme related to Rape Compensation. Objective of the workshop was to help participants in identifying issues that needs attention and improvement. The workshop witnessed representation of 10 district agencies.

Legal services were provided to a range of vulnerable and minority groups enabling them to avail benefits of various Government Schemes and claim their rights. Total cases and claims handled in the last one year are **1,573**, details of which are mentioned further in the report.

## **B. Key Activities and Achievements**

**Legal Aid and Advice:** Nyayika Law Centres provided legal aid and advice in 1,573 matters in the last year, which include 522 cases and 1,051 claims. The centres have provided legal aid and advice in matters related to farmer’s rights, labour rights, forest rights, property disputes, consumer disputes, tribal rights related to issues of land, land rights ranging from property, desilting issues, land entitlements, etc., women’s rights on issues of rape victim compensation, maintenance and domestic violence, Dalit rights on issues of atrocities, and other livelihood related entitlements ranging from applications for Aadhar cards, ration cards, certificates relating to birth, death, income and caste, etc. Assistance was also provided in claiming social securities in cases of accidental death.

Assistance was provided by the Nyayika Centres to the victims of human rights violations in several cases. Fact finding was done by the Bharuch Centre in the reported cases of sexual assault, victims were assisted in filing First Information Reports, helped in investigation and follow ups, and to get compensation as per the Victim Compensation Schemes for offences under POSCO Act, for rape victims and various other claims like under the Government Group Insurance Scheme.

**Table 1: Cases and Claims handled from April 2017 to March 2018**

Unit	Cases		Claims		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Amreli	109	77	173	64	423
Bharuch	13	46	8	15	82
Mandavi	102	22	365	34	523
Modasa	26	38	24	36	124
Lambadiya	40	18	85	32	175
Vatva	12	19	103	112	246
<b>Total</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>1573</b>

**Table 2: Source of referral for cases and claims undertaken by Nyayika during the reporting period.**

Unit	Source of referral									Total
	Campaigns/ Awareness camps	Stakeholders (Court/ Advocate/ ASHA/ Police Station/ Other NGOs)	NyayikaMitr as (Volunteers)	Village visits &meetin gs	Old clients	Walkin atNyayi ka	Team	Publica- tions	Others (Advocates/ Relatives of clients)	
Amreli	5	84	22	174	46	9	54	14	18	426
Bharuch	2	16	8	21	12	3	11	6	6	85
Mandvi	22	10	20	319	85	20	28	10	10	524
Modasa	5	54	9	28	15	10	5	1	0	127
Vatva	73	4	16	57	21	15	15	30	5	236
Lambadiya	14	3	46	77	1	10	10	14	0	175
<b>Total</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>676</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>1573</b>

Cases handled by centre had come from different sources like campaigns, nyayikamitr, village visits/meeting, referral by old clients, publications etc. Maximum number of cases are through village visits and meetings (676).

**CASE & CLAIM HIGHLIGHTS:**

**Women registered as Legal Heirs** – Three women were made aware of their property rights and assisted in getting their names included in their family tree as legal heirs. This has enabled each of them to secure 5 to 10 acres of land.

*Kailashben Ashokbhai Vamja, who is HIV positive, attended one of the district level meetings organized on succession rights of women. This meeting was an exposure for Kailashben wherein, she was made aware of her own rights based on which she claimed her rights and could procure 10 acres of land in her name.*

*Two other women – Manjuben Narsinhbhai Rathore along with another woman became aware of their property and succession rights through the awareness campaigns organized by Nyayika. Post this they claimed their rights in the ancestral land owned by their respective brothers and procured 5 and 10 acres of land in their names respectively.*

During this entire process of claims (Varsai), necessary support and assistance was provided by Nyayika right from procuring supporting documents like – family tree, 7/12 land records and affidavit required for the Varsai applications.

***In the incidents of gang rapes and POCSO, cases have been filled with prosecution.***

*In a gang rape case of a minor girl in Savarkundla, the offenders had constantly been threatening the family of the victim to withdraw the case. The Amreli Centre provided all necessary support to the victim and her family in order to help them continue the case.*

*These included:*

- 1. Police protection to the victim and her family*
- 2. Boost the confidence of the victim to recount and state the incidents as they happened*
- 3. A compensation of INR 50,000/- as an aid under the Rape Victim Compensation Scheme to the victim*
- 4. Necessary legal support provided to ensure rejection of bail application of, offenders leading to their arrest and reduction in their political and economic influence on victims*
- 5. To procure faster trial of the case by the Honourable High Court of Gujarat*

*This case witnessed a lot of challenges in terms of the Lawyers causing mental agony to the victim and her family to settle the case by threatening that the offender's bail application will be approved and he will walk not guilty by providing reasons such as late filing of the complaint and the negative report. In such condition, the bail application had been rejected. Additionally, the local Police forced the victim to wait entire night at the police station before filing the FIR.*

*In such a scenario, it was a major challenge for the Nyayika team to keep the victim and her family motivated to run the trial while the society was pressurizing them for settlement.*

**Women Varsai Campaign** - A women Varsai (inheritance rights) campaign was organized in 8 villages of Khedbrahma taluka reaching out to a total of 500 people generating awareness amongst them. Further to this campaign 19 women were assisted in registering their names in the family tree to help them claim their inheritance rights and the same is in process for another 13 women.

**FRA (Forest Rights Act) Applications –**

In Modasa, 109 people who had applied for land under the FRA did receive the same; however, the size of land was smaller than what was applied for. Thus, an appeal had been made to the Revenue Sub Divisional Officer (Prant Officer), to revise the same.

Appeals have been made to the District Forest Committee and Collector regarding the 63 rejected applications for land entitlements under the FRA.

In Mandvi, 112 people who had made individual applications under the FRA did not receive satisfactory results and thus approached Nyayika-Mandvi to seek help. Their case files have been reviewed by Nyayika Mandvi and suggestions and guidance has been provided to them for the next steps.

To follow up on the above matter 2 Law Interns went to Mandvi Centre to understand the field realities. The interns had been given the task to understand the status of the various applications filed for regularizing the forest land allotted to the farmer as per the Forest Rights Act, 2006. The analysis helped in filing 188 revision applications for those who received lesser land than what is currently being used by farmers in 15 villages of Mandvi.

**Legal Camp and Campaign** - Considering that Forest Right Act and PESA are the most crucial legislations for the Tribal areas, an awareness camp was organised in the Jhumbavadi and Andharikuva villages of Mandvi with nearly 40 to 50 male and female participants attending the camp in each of the villages. During the camp, participants were educated about the legal processes through which they could receive their claims under Forest Rights Act. Additional information, such as, filling an appeal if their claims have been rejected or to file a revision if they have been allotted less land than the actual demand were also provided.

In addition, the rights of the Gram-Sabha, role of Gram-Sabha committee, and how the development work was carried out in villages under PESA were also discussed during the camp.

A two day long legal campaign was organized by a 15 member team in Meghraj district of North Gujarat which covered 3 villages. Major issues that emerged during the campaign included - non-availability of forest land, non-availability of work under MGNREGA, non-payment of wages by forest department, lack of proper implementation of PESA, lack of proper functioning of Anganwadi/ICDS scheme, inheritance of land and issues related to violence against women.

Alongwith the above-mentioned, two issues for PILs were also identified during the campaign with one demanding a Public Health Centre (PHC) and the other related to land rights of residents of Jamghar village of Meghraj District. The background work of information and document collection for filing PILs has been initiated by team Nyayika.

**Fact Finding** - Fact finding has been conducted in 16 cases by the Centres in the last year. These included cases of rape and sexual offences against children. Compensation secured in four rape cases amounted to Rs.1, 80,000.

Out of these four cases of sexual assault were investigated by the Bharuch Centre through fact finding, post which the centre added the provision of Section 376 of IPC in these cases. The victims in the above cases have been investigated further to understand the level of assault and abuse that had taken place.



As a standard norm rape cases registered in the region are further investigated by the Bharuch Centre. The victims were brought to the Centre to understand the problem and also helped arrange a meeting with the Centre lawyer for smooth handling and better understanding of the facts and circumstances of the case. This process helped increase the level of confidence among the victims to fight the case and 6 victims asked the Centre lawyer to assist the Public Prosecutor in hearings of their cases.

#### **Human Rights Incidence Report 1:**

Applicant: RijwanaJalauddin Raj

Address: Taluka – Vagra, District Bharuch

Victim: RijwanaJalauddin Raj (Age : 23 years)

Accused: Shahrukh Salim Shaikh (Age : 23 years)

Address: Taluka – Vagra, District Bharuch

Sections: IPC section 323, 354, AD 504, 506 (2), GPX 135

Police Station: Vagra

Details – Applicant Rijwana a resident of Vagra taluka had an affair with her classmate Shahrukh. However, when Shahrukh got married to another woman, Rijwana broke up with him. Shahrukh now had a family of 5 with 3 children. Rijwana moved on in her life and joined a job at Bharuch city. However, even after the marriage Shahrukh was always after Rijwana and wanted to be in relation with her, which Rijwana didn't want. One fine day while Rijwana was commuting to Bharuch from Vagra on a state transport bus, Shahrukh stopped the bus near Akot Village and pulled her down the bus dragging by her hand. He then hit her on the head with a brick and also beat her badly and fled from there. As Rijwana was bleeding very badly, a 108 ambulance was called by the onlookers and she was then admitted to the Vagra PHC. Upon admission in the hospital and Medico legal case was filed with the local police station.

Nyayika Bharuch came across this case through a local newspaper report and contacted the victim after procuring her number from the local police station. Though the victim initially denied sharing any details, after some counselling she finally met the Bharuch team members at the State Transport Depot, where she is currently employed. However, as the victim was not comfortable sharing the facts of the case in her office she requested the Nyayika team members to visit her at her residence. The team readily agreed for the same and upon gathering all facts from Rjwana ensured the arrest of the accused – Shahrukh who was roaming free even after the incidence.

The accused has currently been released on bail and when the case comes under trial and the chargesheet will be filed, the centre lawyer will file a Vakalatnama. Nyayika Bharuch played a crucial role in this case by providing all necessary legal and emotional support to the victim who is emotionally devastated and very scared after the incidence and confined herself to work and home only.

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## Human Rights Incidence Report 2 – Vadgama Communal Violence

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### Background:

Vadagam is a village in the Dhansura Block of Aravalli District in Gujarat. With the population close to 7000, it is a large village with a mix of Hindu and Muslim population. On the night of 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2017, an incidence of communal violence that caused widespread damage and distress in the entire village.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of April 2017, the Nyayika - Rehnuma Law Centre in Modasa, Aravalli received the news of communal violence in Vadagam. Immediately, the team from Modasa left for the camps at Kursonpura and Bor, and the village of Harsol, where the victims had taken shelter. Meetings and interviews were conducted with the victims to gain an insight into what transpired on that fateful night, details about the perpetrators and the extent of damage to life and property.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of April, the victims along with the Law Centre team went to Himmatnagar and there a larger meeting was organised with members of several local NGOs as participants. In this meeting, the Nyayika - Rehnuma Law Centre took up the mantle of providing legal aid to the victims.

The process of legal aid and assistance began on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April, with the filing of 19 FIRs in the local Police Station. On the 9<sup>th</sup> of April, a representation was made to the District Education Officer to allow for students, who were among the victims, to write their exams from where they were currently residing. In effect, this representation was made considering the special circumstances the students found themselves in, being chased out of the village while their exams were ongoing. Considering this representation, four students were allowed to write their exams from Modasa.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of April, an application was sent to the Collector asking for housing, cash handouts and damage compensation for the victims. A reminder for the same was sent four days later, on the 17<sup>th</sup> April. On the 25<sup>th</sup> of April, a representation was made to the District Police headquarters to ensure registration of FIRs of the victims by the Dhansura police. On the same day, an RTI application was filed in the Dhansura police station to learn the status of the FIRs.

Thereafter, on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May, a representation was made to the IGP due to the inaction by the District and Dhansura Police authorities. The representation urged the IGP to ensure action is taken by the concerned police officers.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of May and subsequently, appeals were made before the District Police headquarters as there was no reply received from the Dhansura Police on the RTI filed one month prior. Also, documentation of all the actions taken and all official correspondence, including RTI applications, representations, photos, etc. were submitted in the High Court for further legal action through the Courts.

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### Human Rirhgs Incidence Report 3

Applicant: Ashsben Sureshbhai Vasava

Address: Village – Amboli, Taluka – Ankleshwar, District Bharuch

Victim: Ashsben Sureshbhai Vasava (Age : 17 years)

Accused: Paresh (Age : 17 years)

Address: Village – Amboli, Taluka – Ankleshwar, District Bharuch

Sections: IPC section 376, 506 (2), POSCO (46), Atrocity (3, 2, 5)

Police Station: Ankleshwar

Details – AshabenVasava a 17 year – old girl a resident of Amboli village of Ankleshwar Taluka was working as an agricultural labourer in the farm of Paresh – the accused. Paresh raped Asha constantly for almost 1 – 1.5 years and when the victim conceived he forced her to terminate the pregnancy and threatened her of committing suicide himself in case she denied. Asha consumed medicine for terminating pregnancy in pressure without informing anyone. Her medical condition deteriorated and she was in a life threatening situation, when an ASHA worker got her admitted to the Civil Hospital at Bharuch. This being a medico legal case an FIR was immediately filed in the local Police Station and the accused was arrested immediately.

Nyayika Bharuch came across the case during a field visit to Amboli and procured the details of the case immediately after meeting the victim in person. The FIR copy and medical reports were procured by the team. The victim being very poor and being supported by a single parent was in distress.

Nyayika Bharuch assisted in helping the victim file rape compensation. Currently, the case is pending for trail in the Court, while the accused's family is trying to make a compromise by paying some amount to the victim.

**Cases filed under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 [Atrocities Act]** –Three cases were filed under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 [Atrocities Act] including a murder case wherein the bail application of the accused was rejected by the Court with the efforts of Nyayikateam.

In another case of atrocity, a rape case, the family was threatened and forced into fleeing their village. Further, the lawyer was intimidated into withdrawing the case. An appeal has been made against the same.

In the third case of land grabbing and assault, an application has been filed for the bail to be rejected.

*In a suicide case of a Dalit community member reported at the Amreli Centre of Saurashtra region of Gujarat necessary assistance was provided to the victim's family for compensation. The victim committed suicide due to harassment by the upper caste members in the village. The family was assisted by the Amreli Centre to file an application for compensation towards atrocity committed before the Social Welfare Department. The family was helped procure a compensation of INR 4,00,000.*

**Tribal Rights** - An RTI application has been filed to check the presence of any policies or resolutions that benefit the primitive tribes based in the forest belt of Mandvi. This is specially to check if land could be allotted to these tribes. Primitive tribes (locally called as AdimJuth) in the forest belt areas of Mandvi are economically and socially backward with lack of access to basic amenities or any source of livelihood assured by the Government under various schemes, laws, and policies. As the RTI did not receive any response, an appeal had been filed to follow up on the same. Upon appealing, the RTI application had been forwarded to the Deputy Collector to provide further information.

**Land Rights:** In Mandvi, farmers were assisted in making a collective claim over farm land that they have been cultivating since several years, but still the land was not in their possession. Individual complaints have been filled to seek a clarification on their entitlements on the land, but no response was obtained. Nearly 80 farmers had the same grievance; therefore, a collective approach to justice was initiated. For the collective claim, personal and other related land documents were required, the process of collecting documents has been initiated and documents from 29 farmers were obtained and submitted to the Collector along with a representation.

**Vada Regularization Applications:** In Mandvi, a Government Resolution VDL/102015/1420/14/K, was passed to regularize the Vadas (a place surrounding the house used by community members for animal husbandry or garden farming around the house). A workshop was conducted by the Nyayika team to raise awareness on the GR and the team has assisted 10 community members to file applications for

regularization of their Vadas.

An appeal was filed on a rejected RTI application filed on Vada Regularization by the North Gujarat Nyayika Centre. Initially the collector and information officer denied the availability of information with them but based on the appeal the Information officer agreed to provide the same without any fees. However, even after the order information was not provided for more than 10 days and thus an application was submitted by the Nyayika Centre keeping the collector in copy. This application worked in favour of the Centre and the information was provided within 3 days of application. Based on the information received in RTI the Centre has started working with the community members on regularization of their Vadas.

**Social Security Rights – Family of an accidental death victim** – Kajalben at Amreli was assisted with claiming compensation under the “Government Group Insurance Scheme.” During the floods in Amreli, Kajalben’s stove blew up when she turned on the stove resulting in her death. It was believed that her stove was immersed in flood water. Her husband, Vikram made an application before the Consumer Court requesting the Labour Welfare Board to provide compensation for the death of his wife under Insurance Scheme. However, upon delayed response of the authorities, the Amreli Centre intervened and assisted in filing a case of physical and mental harassment along with request for insurance claim, which resulted in a compensation of INR 1, 25,000 being paid to the victim’s family.

**Farmer Rights - The issue of desilting of soil from the Bhesaniya Dam of Savarkundla** was raised, thus helping 1500 farmers who rely for irrigation on the water reserved in this dam. The soil from such dams needs to be removed periodically through a process of desilting, however, this procedure was not followed properly resulting in insufficient storage of water affecting the irrigation. To flag the issue, the concerned departments were identified and applications had been submitted to the Taluka Development Officer, Irrigation Department, District Development Officer and to the Collector. This issue attracted media publicity too.

Representations were also made regarding the same to the local MLA and State Chief Minister for which assurance of appropriate actions was given and a committee was also constituted to resolve this issue.

**Labour Rights** - In the village of Mota Mandvada, job cards under MNREGA were not issued to many labourers. This issue was taken up by the Amreli Centre with the respective Panchayat. Following this, the Panchayat passed a resolution to issue the job cards. This was a great success for the villagers.

**Child Rights** – The North Gujarat Nyayika Centre has been recognized by the Child

Welfare Department of Aravalli district and has been awarded the membership of the Child welfare Committee. As part of the process, members of Nyayika Centre also attended the training program organized by the Department and was invited by the Department of Labour to be a part of the committee formed under National Child Labour Project (NCPL). Under this project, education is provided to the child labourers. The Nyayika Centre was a part of the survey to identify child labourers and overall implementation of the project.

**Citizenship Rights** – The Vatva Nyayika Centre coordinated with Block Level officers and Collector regarding non-issuance of election cards to 24 members from the community. The Collector inquired about the issue and asked the Nyayika team to identify few people from the community who could be authorized as identified community members to support in issuance of election cards for these 24members.

**Implementation of “Financial Compensation Scheme” for rape cases:** Bharuch Centre conducted a research to know the status of Rape Compensation Scheme and amendments needed in the scheme - With increasing number of rape incidents in Bharuch District, NyayikaBharuch decided to undertake a study of the State and Central Government Scheme ““compensation scheme for women victims/survivors of sexual assault/other crimes”. The objective behind the study was to identify issues arising in implementation of scheme which require additional attention and improvement. Details were acquired from various departments such as police stations, courts, free legal aid and social security centres. These details were analysed and on the basis of that, a District level workshop was organised on “International Women’s Day” and approximately 10 district agencies participated in thesame.

*Aman, a 13-year-old boy was issued a birth certificate without his name mentioned at the time of his birth. His parents wanted to add his name in the birth certificate but could not succeed. Officers from the concerned department demanded a bona fide certificate from the school. As Aman never attended school, it was not possible to get the bona fide certificate. But the officer did not agree to add the name in the birth certificate without the same. Aman’s parents approached the Vatva Centre and requested for support. The Vatva team prepared an affidavit mentioning the name and date of birth of Aman and submitted the same to the Officer responsible for registration. The officer initially refused to accept the affidavit but later agreed to accept it with an undertaking/assurance from the Vatva Centre. Within 10 days of the submission of Affidavit, Aman’s name was added to the birth certificate. This case helped NLC build a positive relationship with the department and the officer admitting that it was learning for him.*

### **C. Organizational Updates**

The team strength of Nyayika has been consistently increasing with five young lawyers being added to the panel at Ahmedabad. NyayikaVatva, an off-spring of the

collaboration between Himmat (CBO) and Nyayika flourished since its start with an increase in cases and claims. Similarly, the Modasa centre expanded its work in the North Gujarat named as the North Gujarat Centre. This decision was made during the Annual Review Meeting of CSJ held in the month of March 2018. It was also discussed that this centre will cover issues related to minority community, tribal groups, women, children and other vulnerable communities of Meghraj, Himmatnagar, Bhiloda, Aravalli and other areas of North Gujarat.

Networking and liasoning with various other like-minded organizations including NGOs and CBOs had been another ongoing activity to ensure maximum outreach. One such tie up had been with Saath Charitable Trust that works with a vision to promote inclusive development and enhanced livelihoods. Through this collaboration, Saath intends to extend its offerings to the community and work in association with Nyayika for establishing and operating Nyayika Multispecialty Law Centre in Ahmedabad.

Additionally, Nyayika Amreli and Mandvi have collaborated with the local chapters of the NGO MahilaSamakhya at their respective locations. Liasoning with the legal Services authorities has been constantly focused on. The Bharuch centre collaborated with the NariAdalats, Gender Resource Centre and 108 Abhayam Helpline.

## **D. Progress on Major Objectives**

### **1. Sustainability–**

Over this year, the teams have focused on strengthening existing operations and associations with other organizations while expanding to new areas and building new collaborations. And have succeeded in increasing its operation in total 6 districts of Gujarat through its centre.

Regular awareness generation and rapport building exercises have resulted in the community proactively identifying cases requiring legal aid and claim applications and referring them to the Nyayika Centres. At some of the centres, the community members are involved as volunteers who are aware enough to make claim applications and gather support documents on their own with minimal support from Nyayaika, thus leading towards institutionalization of the processes.

Nyayika had been acting as a resource centre for various other organizations and as a part of the same trainings has been provided to a series of stakeholders including volunteers, paralegals, members of Naari Adalat, Panchayat members, representatives of other NGOs, etc. This will help institutionalize the ideology and rights based perspective amongst these stakeholders.

The outreach activities were continued with the same rigour and included a series of events. Some major events organized during the year included the Minority Rights Campaign that was organized with the objective of understanding the problems of the Muslim population residing in non- Muslim concentrated districts, the awareness campaign of Vada Regularization GR by the Mandvi Centre, awareness campaign on Forest Rights Act and PESA by the North Gujarat Centre, awareness campaign on citizenship rights by the Vatva Centre, etc.

Additionally, the Nyayika teams conducted **1,157** village visits to reach out to the communities through door to door visits, awareness camps and legal shibirs (Camps) on a variety of issues and Government schemes and programmes including- women, land, forest, property and labour rights. **106** legal awareness programmes and **429** stakeholder meetings. These outreach activities resulted in identification of **954** cases and claims which were later handled by the centres. Of these, the volunteers identified a total of **63** cases and claims from all centers.

Capacity building of and awareness generation amongst stakeholders and target communities has been another focus of the programme to ensure institutionalization of the processes to ensure sustainability.

Regular review and evaluation of the work has ensured constant improvement in quality and provided a cross learning platform to the teams. The structured MIS system has proved to be very helpful in this evaluation process.

#### **a) Collaborations and Associations–**

In the year 2017-18 Nyayikacentres have collaborated with various local NGOs, CBOs and Government Organizations at various locations including – “Saath Charitable Trust”, in Ahmedabad, MahilaSamakhya in Amreli and Mandvi, District Legal Services Authority in Mandvi, NaariAdalats, Gender Resource Centre and 108 Abhayam helpline,local Panchayats in various locations, Women and Child Welfare and Labour Department, academic institutions etc. To share few of the major collaborations:

- Gujarat Law Society College and Nirma University have sent more than 25 students for intership in Nyayika. Along with providing them theoretical information an exposure visits to NyayikaVatva for oneday. These students were also part of awarness generation campaign in Mandvi.
- A MOU was signed with “Parwaz” organization wherein Nyayikawould earn revenue at 10% for referring for legal services.
- “Saath” organization outsourced all its legal work to Nyayika on a revenue sharing basis.
- Collaboration was worked out with the MahilaSamakhya in 25 villages of Mandvi. As a part of the collaboration, Nyayikacentre has been handling the cases received from the MahilaSamakhya and the centre members are also



- invited as resource persons for the awareness camps organised by Mahilasamkhyas.
- Government Liaisoning– Liaisoning and networking efforts were made by all centres at various Government offices. Some of these include liaisoning with Zonal Officer in Vastrapur, Ahmedabad for ration card and with the Election Officer for Election Card. At Mandvi, South Gujarat the Sarpanch of Balethi Village supported for inclusion of names of people in “VADA”.
  - Efforts were made to work closely with Advocates for preparing Affidavits, Rent Agreement and gift Agreement, etc.
  - The Amreli Centre collaborated with the local NGO “Mahilasamkhyas”, wherein the centre provides legal awareness training to the women’s groups and jointly organizes the monthly cluster meetings of Mahilasamkhyas. This collaboration has resulted in the cases and claims coming to the NGO being forwarded to the Amreli Centre for resolution.
  - The Mandvi Centre collaborated with District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) wherein the Centre and DLSA jointly organize legal awareness camps in the region.
  - Nyayika Bharuch collaborated with the Gender Resource Centre, Nari Adalat, and 108 Abhayam Helpline. The Nyayika team was also invited as resource person to speak on women’s rights, especially on the International Women’s Day celebrated in the month of March, 2018. Nyayika members were called to speak at various forums, including the media events.
  - The North Gujarat Centre has collaborated with the Women & Child Welfare Department and Labour Department for conducting a survey on the status of child education in North Gujarat. The Centre has also been appointed as a member of the Child Welfare Committee.

**b) Training and Capacity Building**

- Training on counseling and basic Women Rights Law was organized for the Naari Adalat members from 3 talukas of Bharuch.
- Training was organized on Dalit Rights Law in Amreli district with a total of 19 volunteers’ as participants.
- 9 local volunteers from Samajik Nyay Manch were trained to work on Women’s Rights issues at Modasa.
- Training was organized for awareness on Government Resolution (GR) with regards to Vadas. This awareness training in the Umarpada Taluka under Nyayika Mandvi was attended by 50 participants including NGO representatives, volunteers, paralegals, Nyayika Mitras and Panchayat members.
- Training was organized on Dalit Rights in Neembadi.
- Training was organized on contract labour, unorganized labour and women rights with 8 Nyayika Mitras of Nyayika Vatva. Out of this 1 paralegal and 5 Nyayika Mitras have been associated with us.

- An awareness camp was organized on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2018 by the Vatva Centre to educate the community regarding Non Agricultural (NA) Certificate/ No Objection Certificate (NOC) in order to help them avail the basic amenities. A number of community members residing in Vatva have not received Non Agricultural /No Objection Certificate (NA/NOC) because of which they are facing problems related to water supply, electricity connections, etc. It was thus decided by the Vatva Centre to create awareness amongst community members regarding their rights. The campaign was well promoted 3 days in advance to ensure maximum participation. A pamphlet with information on what is NA/NOC, documents required to obtain the same, whom to approach regarding the same, etc. was distributed amongst the residents of Vatva. A total of **100** participants were guided and assisted during the campaign. The campaign was also attended by the Law Interns, volunteers, paralegals and lawyers.
- 3 Capacity building discussions were held with the panel lawyers, where inputs and advice was given regarding the ongoing court cases and also about the strategies to be used at various stages of the proceedings of the case.
- Training on police structure and basic Women Rights Laws was organized for the volunteers & staff. A total of 12 volunteers and staff members enthusiastically participated in the training.
- Training on Sexual Harassment at work place was organized with 25 workers of the Gopala Polyplast Limited Company at Santej, Taluka Kalol of Gandhinagar District.
- Two training programs for 12 newly recruited paralegals were organized at the Neembadi Training Centre in Sanand, Gujarat. The first training was spread over 3 days, where the paralegals were oriented on the basics of the Indian Constitution including Fundamental Rights, directive principles, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), Domestic Violence Act, 2005, Right to Information Act and SC/ ST Prevention of Atrocities Act. Additionally, the participants were also oriented on what is vulnerability, power and discrimination. Whereas the covered basic information of the Indian Constitution including Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles, MGNREGA, Domestic Violence Act 2005, and SC/ ST Prevention of Atrocities Act, structure of courts, how to conduct village visits and the use of media during village visits and the ways to conduct fact-finding.
- A paralegal training was conducted for a team of 8 paralegals, including law students and community members. The training focused on understanding basic laws, perspective building, drafting skills, learning to file RTIs, using media at the field level, etc. Laws on various themes and how to read sections were also explained to the trainees. A session on conducting fact-finding was also held during the training.
- A one-day training program for volunteers of Saath Charitable Trust was organized. 22 members participated in the training. Topics discussed during

training program were constitutional rights, RTI and Laws related to women.

- A one-day training program was organized for women driver members of Janvikas project “**Driver Ben**”. Topics discussed during the training program were constitutional rights, RTI and Laws related towomen.

Operating multispecialty law centers to provide affordable legal solutions is an exciting journey, as the changes that are brought in the lives of the people through enabling entitlements, providing assistance to victims and providing affordable legal representation increase the credibility of formal dispute resolution mechanism and promote access to justice. E.g. 16 fact finding were conducted by the Centres in the year 2017-18. These included cases of rape and sexual offences against children. Compensation secured in four rape cases amounted to Rs.1,80,000. In another case the family was assisted by the Amreli Centre to file an application for compensation towards atrocity committed before the Social Welfare Department. The family was helped procure a compensation of INR 4,00,00. Similarly, property rights of 3 women were secured by Amerlicentre. Efforts to connect with masses, resolve their disputes and assist them to get their entitlements not only bring credibility to the work of Nyayika they also improved conditions of the disadvantaged and empower them.



**Annexure – Visual Depiction of Work**



**Banner display of Nyayika at the Police Station in Bharuch**



**Village Meeting at Pahaj, Bharuch**



**Banner display of Nyayika Bharuch at Kasak Circle**



**The team of lawyers, paralegals and volunteers working for the Communal violence victims at Vadagam**



**Meeting with Communal Violence victims at Vadagam**



**Meeting with community leaders at Lambadiya**



**Volunteer Training at Modasa**



**Village Meeting at Rajkot**



**Canopy for Nyayika Promotion at Dargahin Vatva, Ahmedabad**



**Premilaben, Coordinator of Nyayika, Bharuch as a panelist on IN Channel, Bharuch**



**Input on Sexual Harrasment at Work place, Sanand**



**Workshop on Sexual Harassment at Workplace for the employees of Gopala Polyplast Limited, Kalol, Gandhinagar**



**Village Level Meeting at Amreli**



**Felicitation of MrsJagruti Joshi, a lawyer of Nyayika on International Women's Day**



**Input of Law to ICD workers ( AnganwadiKaryakars) at Amreli**



**Village Visit by NyayikaatMotaChapra, Bharuch**

